

## OBITUARY: JOHN TYRER

Just as this Newsletter was about to go to press came the very sad news of the death of this Society's textile specialist and Steering Committee colleague John Tyrer. John was one of the longest-serving members of the BSTS, an internationally-recognised expert on the textile aspects of the Shroud, and, contributor of definitive articles and papers on the subject for Shroud groups around the world. Even with failing health (from heart problems) during the last few years, with his devoted wife Gwen he regularly travelled from his home in Manchester to attend BSTS public meetings. He commanded the widest affection and respect.

John died peacefully the morning of the 28th April, at the age of 68. Until his retirement some seven years ago he was on the staff of AMTAC Laboratories, Altrincham, Cheshire, and before then was textile consultant to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Testing House. Besides the Shroud his interests ranged from Gurdjieff to art and pottery-making. He never wavered in his support for the Shroud's authenticity, being first to argue in a professional journal [*Textile Horizons* March 1989] that contaminants 'cooked' into the Shroud's fibres by the 1532 fire could be responsible for the seeming skewing of the carbon dating.

Gwen has asked that no flowers should be sent to John's funeral. Instead anyone wanting to mark his memory may like to make a donation to one of his favourite charities: The Society for the Rescue of Distressed Animals (SRDA), Animal Sanctuary, Windy Way, Buxton Old Road., Macclesfield, Cheshire.